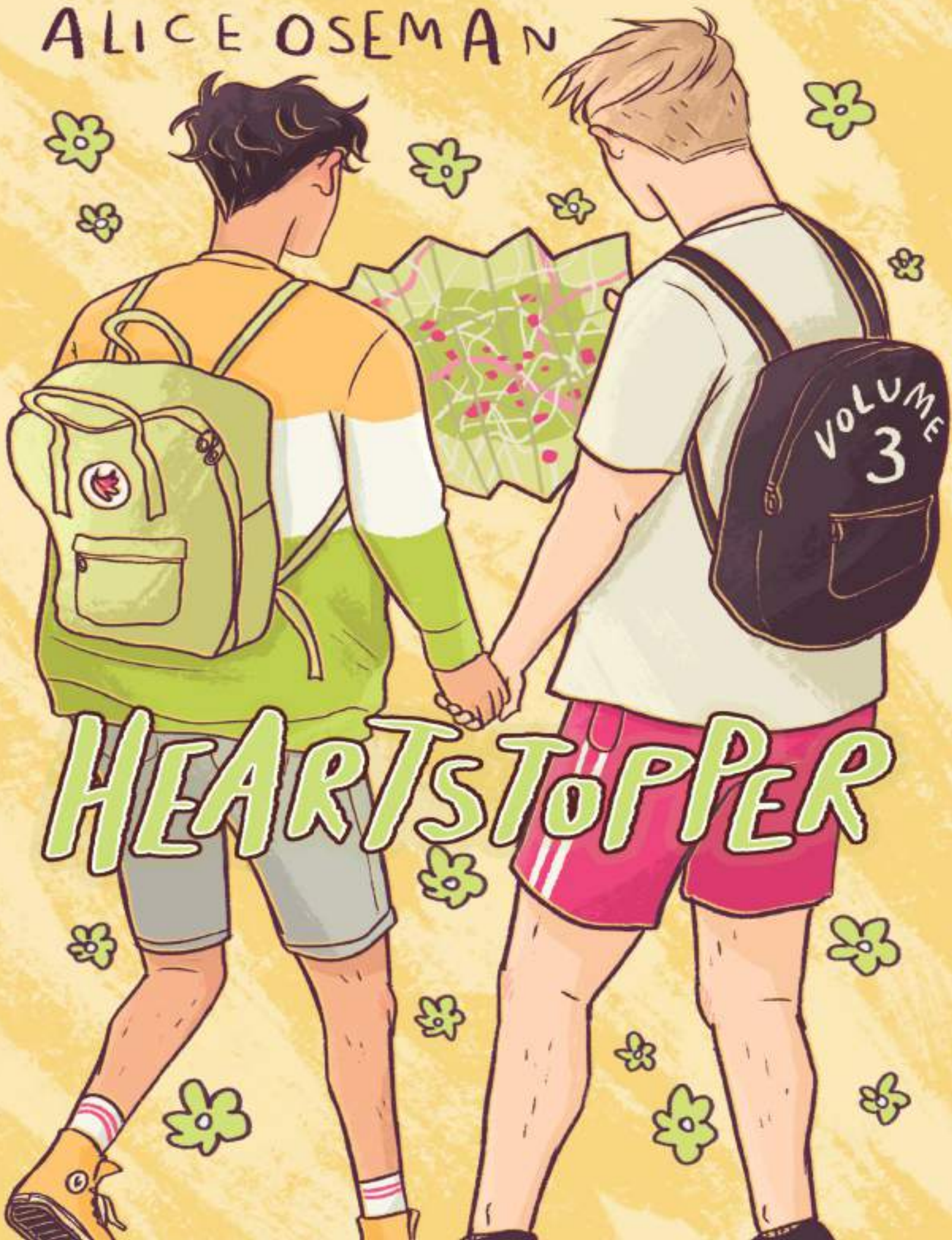


ALICE OSEMAN



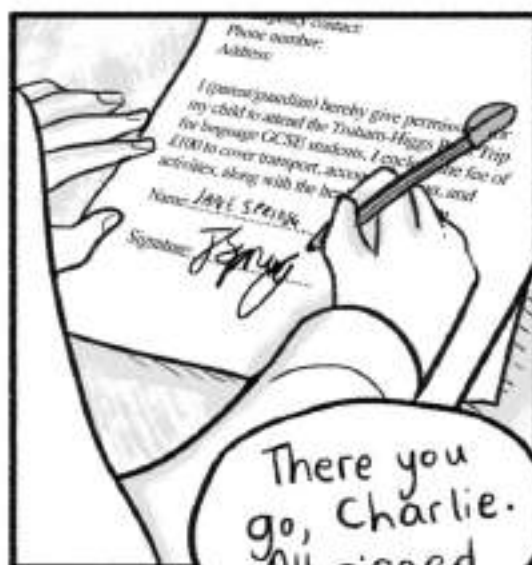
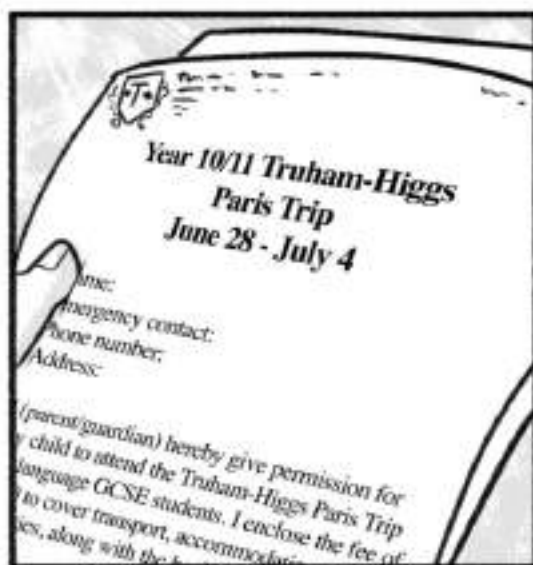
HEARTSTOPPER





4. OUT















3 DAYS EARLIER

He told me
it went well!



AAH!

Nick!
Is that y-

Guess what



10 H
Lockers

I came
out to
my mum
last
night









Oh, Nick's definitely
banned from sleepovers
forever now.



WHAT!!



Yup. There will be no
hanky panky in this
house.



Please don't
say 'hanky
panky'.



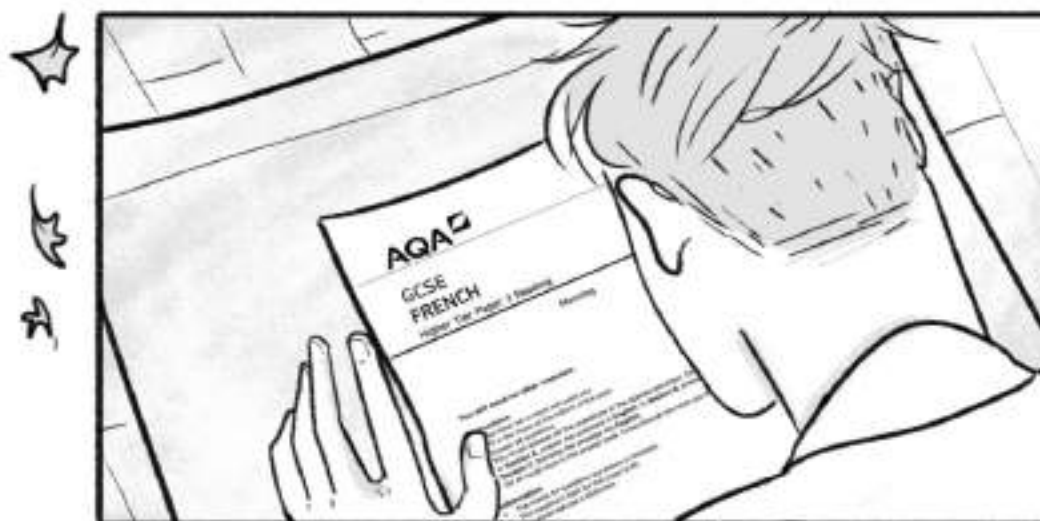
Bedroom door open
at all times!!



I've got to
go, I have
an exam

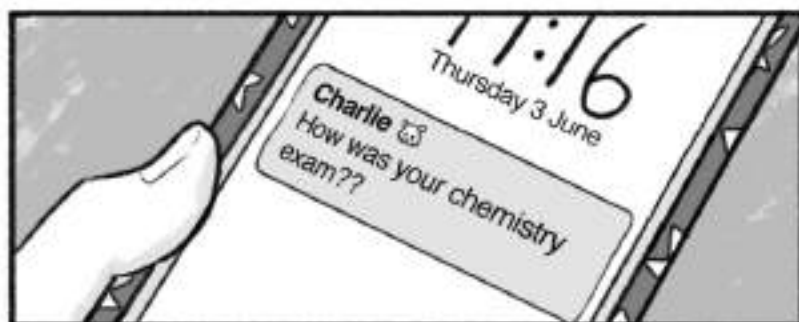








JUNE



Not too bad, but... not great 😊
Are you on study leave? Can
you come round mine? I badly
need hugs



I can't, I'm at a biology revision session 😞 I also need hugs pls



Sneak out and come home with me 😊

Soz I love energy flow and plant growth more than you



I have some ideas for things we could do involving energy flow....

Asldfkjghkfygh STOP



Nick!







Not even just at the cinema - we should have done it ages ago

And I know we should have been better when Harry was picking on Charlie. But we can promise we'll be better friends from now on.

Seriously.

And we really like Charlie! He's a nice guy and I don't want him to think we're like Harry.



We're on your side, Nick. We're your friends, if you still want us to be.













ONE WEEK LATER







Hey... when did you
start feeling like that?



It doesn't
matter! It's
just exam
stress!

I'm not
saying you
shouldn't
come out!

Just... forget I
said anything!!



Charlie...







You can
talk to me
about it...?

Can you just...
kiss me
again...





kiss



kiss



I can always
do that





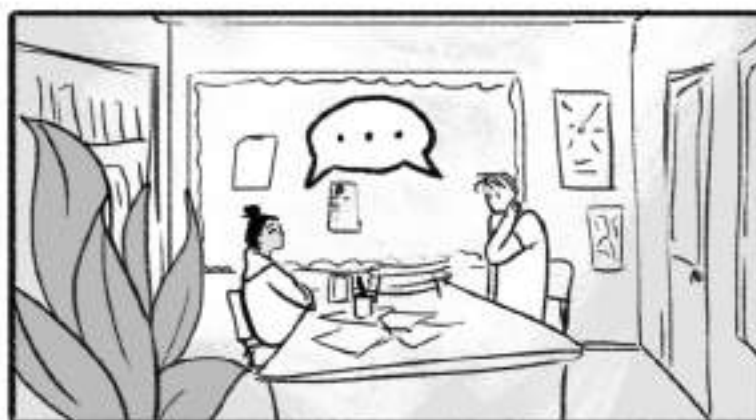








You're the heart and centre of this team, Nick. You have the talent to pursue rugby beyond school, if you want to.





I'm glad Charlie's settled into the team. I've been keeping an eye on him. I know he's been a target of some pretty severe bullying in the past.

If I hear you've done anything to hurt him, we'll be having words, all right?

Y-yeah-I mean-I wouldn't-



And if any of the other boys do or say anything spiteful to you or Charlie, you just come straight to me, okay?



I met my wife
playing university
sport in the early
noughties.



People gave
us a lot
of shit.

Things are
a little better
now, but...
you never
know.





Hey
babe

I missed
you today

Haha,
yeah, I'll
be home
soon



What was
that all
about?









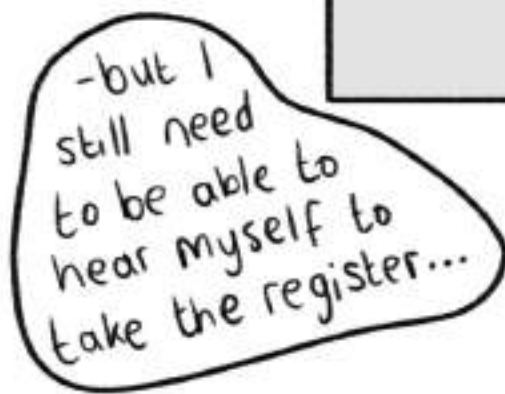
THE NEXT MORNING...

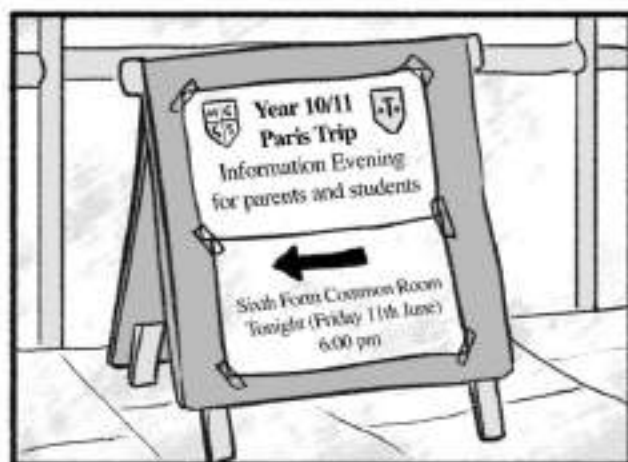


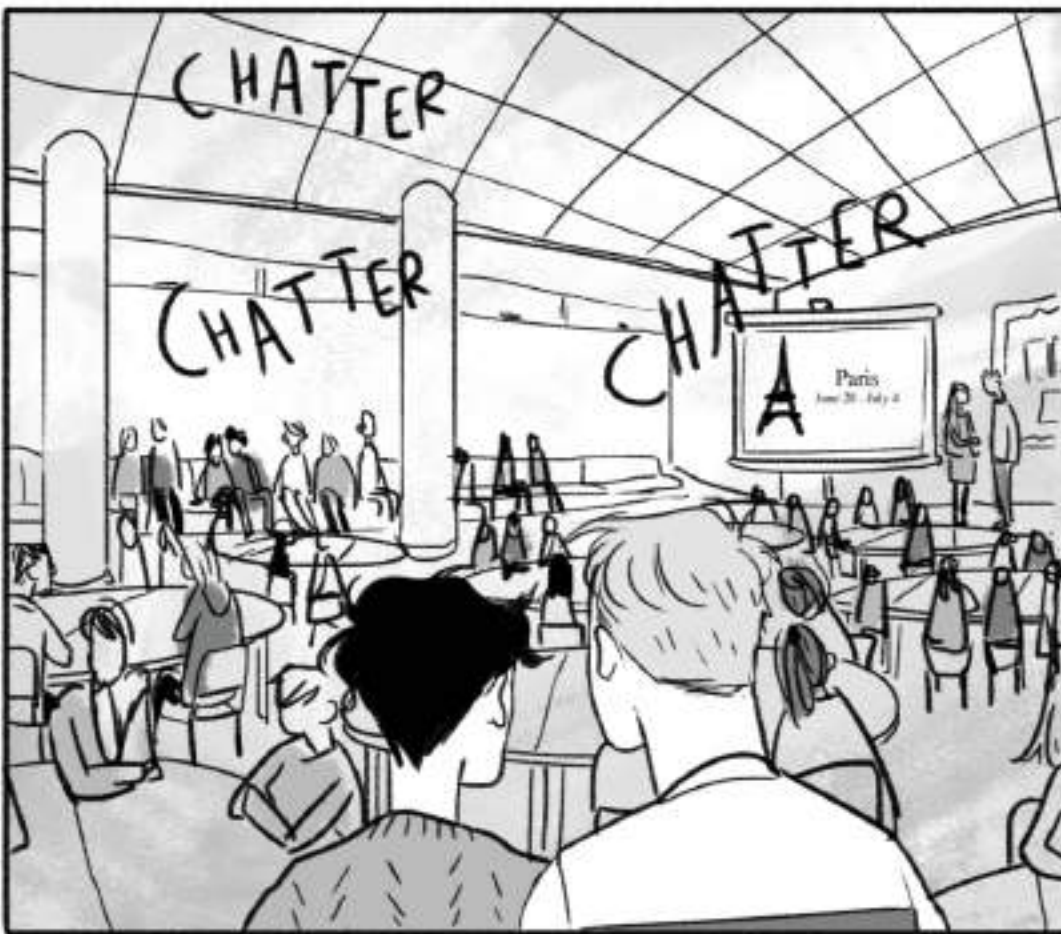




















Good evening, Year 10s and 11s of Truham and Higgs, and good evening parents!



We've got a lot of information to get through this evening.



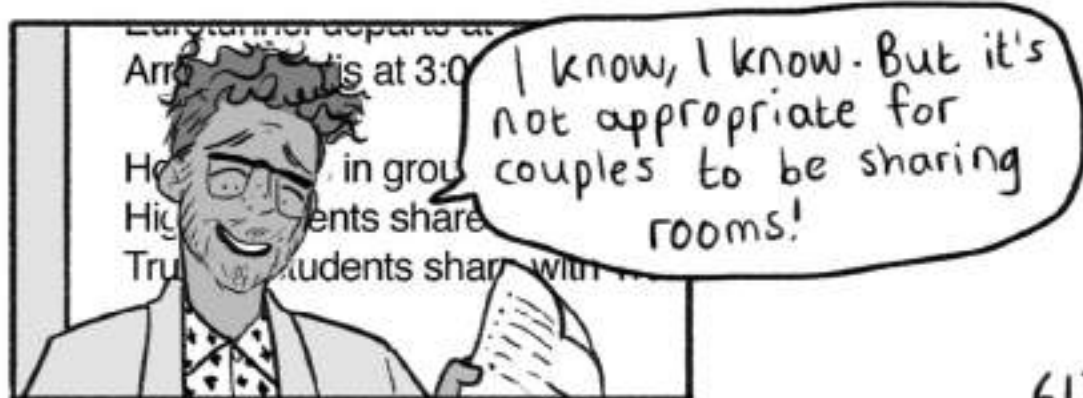
My name is Mr. Ajayi! I teach art at Higgs.



And I'm Mr. Farouk. I teach physics at Truham.



We'll be supervising the Paris trip this year...





Now, we need one person from each group to come up to the front to write down your names.





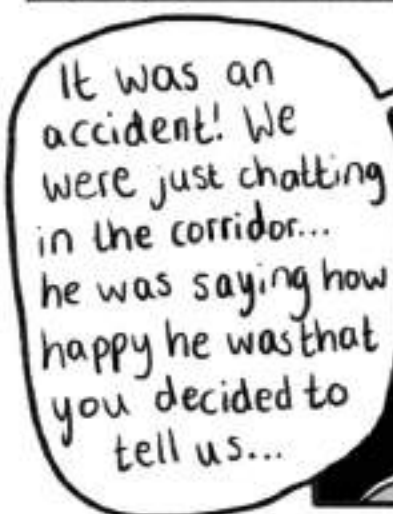


You haven't been quite as subtle
as you think you have.

Elle knows
too. I think
we worked
it out when
we all
went bowling.

But-

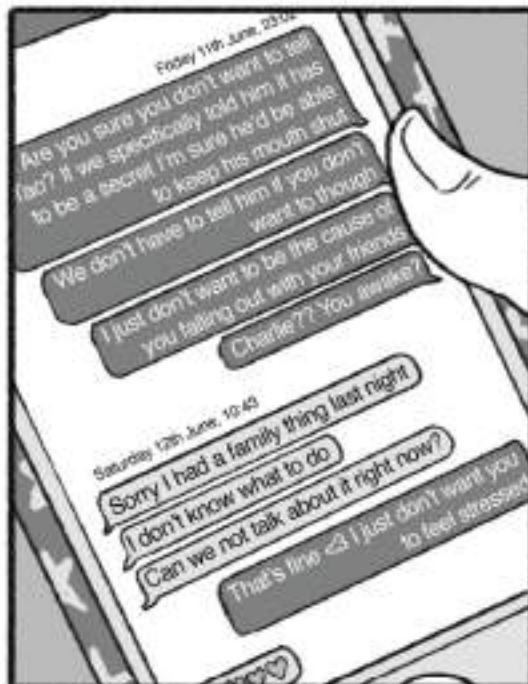
Don't tell Tao yet.

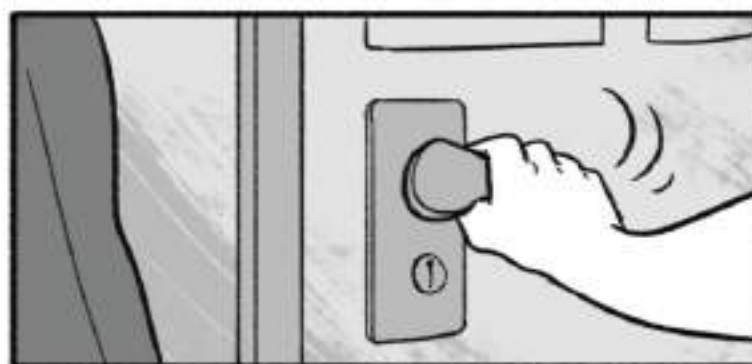




623







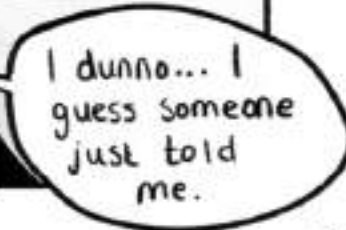
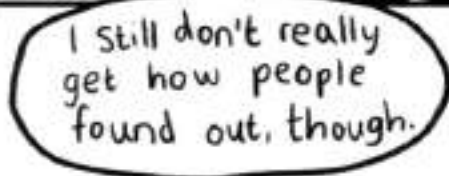




에









Exactly.



At the time, there weren't any other out gay kids in school, so it was the most exciting news of the week.

People either thought I was a novelty or I was just gross. It... it really surprised me how many people are still homophobic.



They'd tell me I was disgusting. Right to my face.





It got better after a few months and some Sixth formers got the worst bullies to stop.

And then it was like everyone started waking up and realising that I was a real person with real feelings.



But the damage had already been done, I guess.



This is why you're stressed about us being out.





Yeah...
The
bullying...
It was
really
bad,
and...



I started to believe
what they were
saying.

It made me
really hate
myself.



So much
that
I...



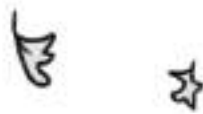
I used
to...
um...





















I just wanted
to meet the
guy who turned
my little
brother gay











Nick...









MUSIC

In books and films there's just one big coming out scene and then everything is fine haha



Real life isn't like that I guess



Are you awake?



652





SHIT sorry I meant to message you!!!

My brother's being a dick, he literally won't stop pestering me

Might be better if you don't come round here until he's back at uni





It was my fault for not telling him sooner tbh

No! You shouldn't have to tell him if you didn't want to



I guess he would have found out eventually one way or another. I should probably call my dad soon and tell him too

You don't have to! you can take your time!



I want him to know about you!! Plus I want to be the one to tell him, not David





I'm so sorry, this is all my fault



You shouldn't have to feel rushed or pressured by anybody



Charlie this is NOT your fault!!!!!!!

Coming out is HARD and COMPLICATED, right???

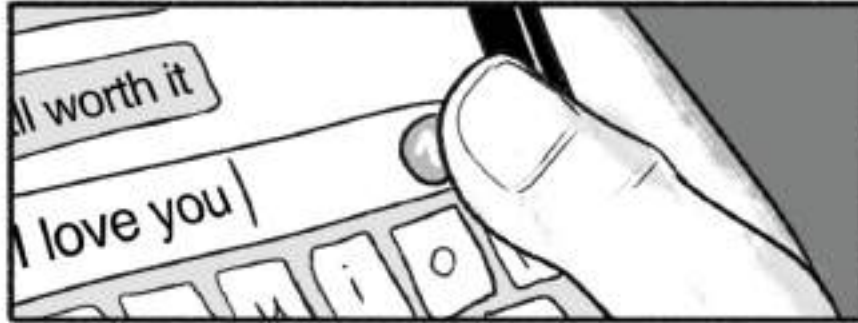
And it doesn't all happen at once! And it doesn't always go right! Sometimes it probably doesn't even happen at all!! Coming out to my mum was amazing but I never expected it to go super well with everyone!! And it's not YOUR fault! I just want people to know who I am and know that you're my boyfriend and I know that not everyone will like it but I'm ready for that. We're probably gonna have to come out hundreds more times in our lives!!



It might be shitty sometimes but I promise I'm okay

And it's all worth it









Thank God
it's nearly
the summer
holidays!



ONE WEEK LATER



And nearly the
Paris trip!



I've got drama
now so I'll
see you at
lunch!



Learning objectives: To examine







But we don't
want or need
to tell anyone
about it.
For now,
anyway.

Because right
now it's just
our thing.



Aled...
you could have
told me...



I know.
But this is
my point.



This whole deal
with you and Nick
being out to people...
I think you need to
stop worrying about
anyone else's feelings.





It was different for you because you were outed and you didn't have any control, but this time, you do.



... you don't have to.

There's this idea that if you're not straight, you **HAVE** to tell all your family and friends immediately, like you owe it to them. But you don't. You don't have to do anything until you're ready.





This is about you and Nick.





I just...



I don't want what happened to me to happen to Nick



Anyway... tell me about this boy

Wha-no

Come onnn... not even his name?

Um... it's Daniel...











O-okay...thank
you, Mr Farouk.
Now, if you could
answer when I
call out your
name, please.











677





Well I want the other bed, then!
I hate getting woken up by the sun.



Um... I guess
... I'll go
with Tao
and you go
with Aled?



Yeah...



KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

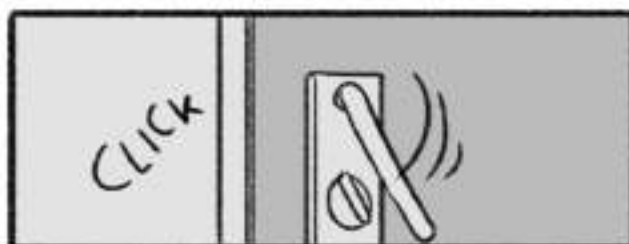


Aled? Is this your room? I still have your phone charger!



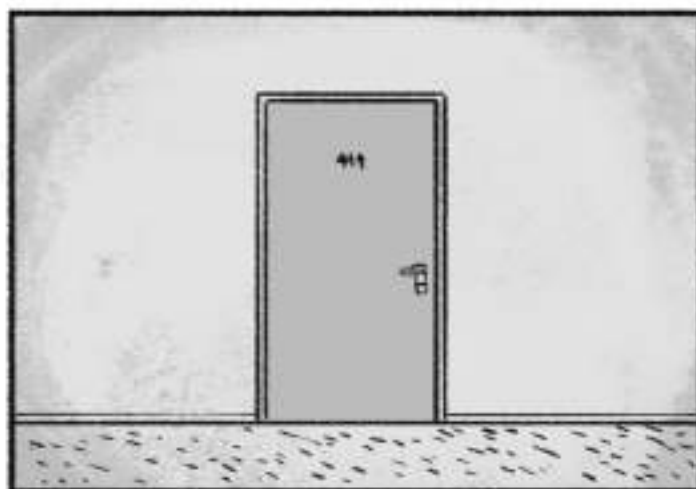
















Are you guys awake yet?



It's nearly time to go for-







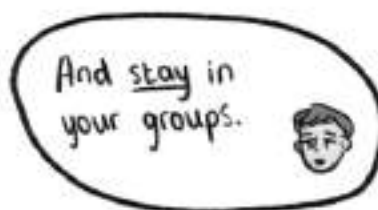


Okay, gang! This afternoon you're going to be exploring Montmartre by yourselves for a couple of hours.

There are lots of shops and places to visit, like the Sacré-Cœur church and the Musée de Montmartre.

That's 'museum' for all the students on this trip who don't even take French







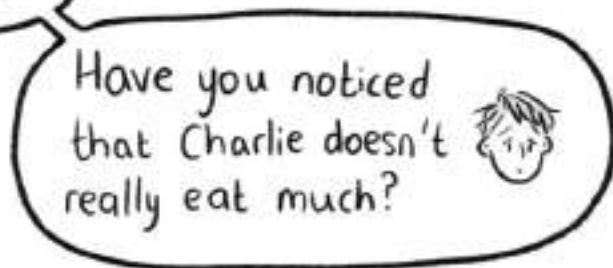
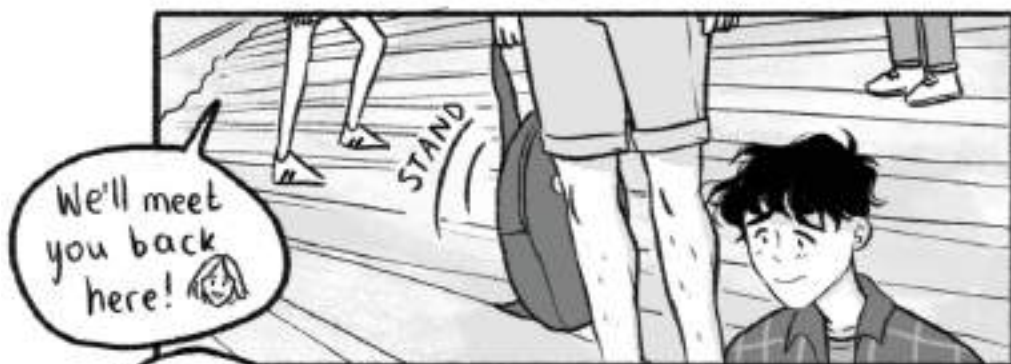


















SINCE WHEN!?

Since... his birth?



So how are
things with
you and
Nick?









Darcy was already out. We'd been dating for a while and most of our friends knew. But other people were starting to guess too.



At our school, 'lesbian' was used as an insult all the time. I probably even used it once or twice when I was younger.

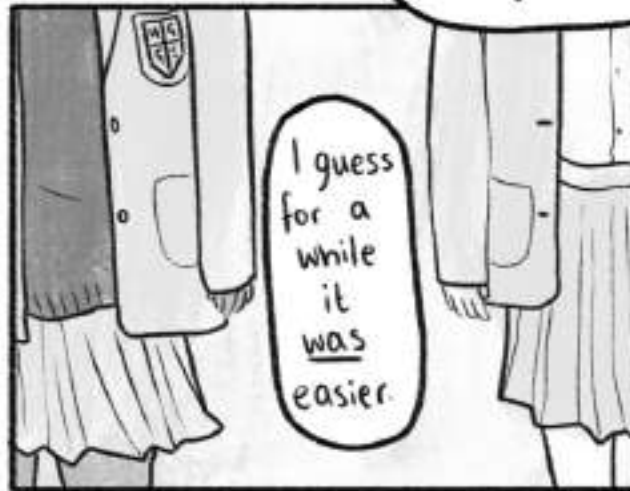


We were terrified.



It took me a long time
to even feel comfortable
calling myself a
lesbian.

And for a while,
we thought it'd be
easier to pretend we
were just friends.



I guess
for a
while
it
was
easier.

But, in time, we got more
comfortable being us.

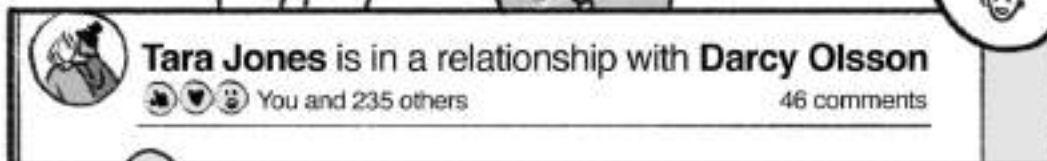


We reached the point where we knew that
whatever people said or thought about us,
we knew who we were



And we loved ourselves anyway.









So, absolute disaster,
Jonesy-









There they are!



Oh my God, d'you think anything happened?

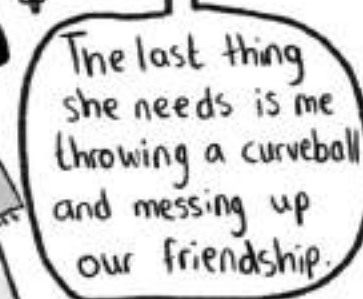
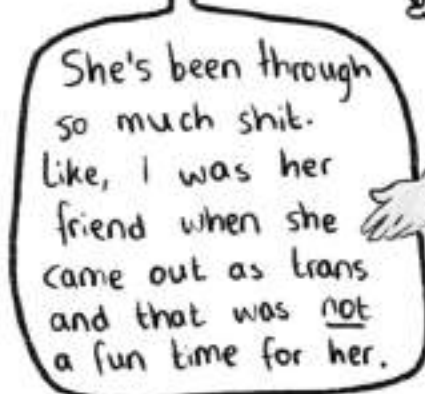
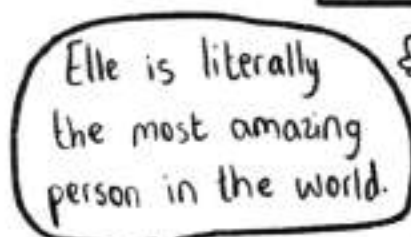
I hope so, or Tao is gonna pine to death

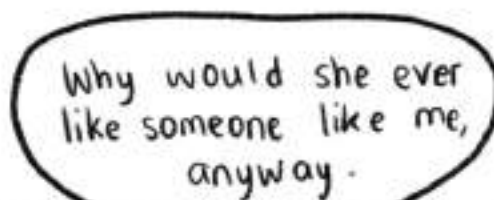




Hey Tao... how'd it go with Elle today?

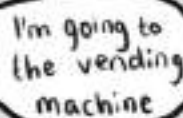






720



















You taste
like toothpaste...
Like the first
time we kissed
at your
house...



Well I have
literally just
brushed my
teeth, so-



S-so...
Um...

what are
you
doing?



Kissing
your neck...
is that
okay?

um
OBVIOUSLY



Thought
so

oh my
God



KISS
KISS

oh my God



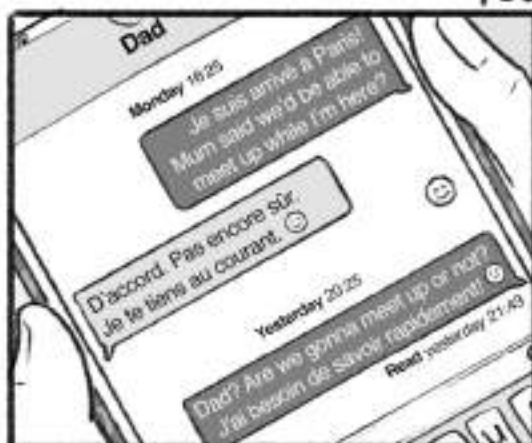
KISS KISS





Paris - Day 3















Aled! We have like fifteen minutes to get ready so WAKE UP



You could have told him if you wanted to



It's hard.

Yeah?

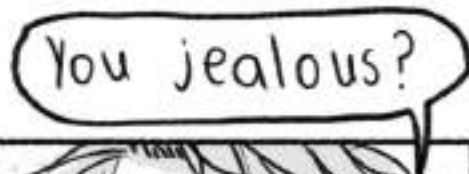


I'm gonna tell him today.

Yeah.







All right, lads.
Fucking leave them alone.





I was thinking about it and...
I don't think I even mind if
people find out it was me.



I honestly think it'd be a
relief to just... be out.

I was talking to Tara about it yesterday. She told me how she and Darcy came out and it made me feel like...



Even if things are harder when people know about us, we'll be okay, because we've got each other.



That is literally the soppiest thing you've ever said.



Haha!!
Oh God,
it really
is



Charlie!
Get over here,
I need a photo
of me, you,
and Aled!



I'll be
back in
a sec!

Haha okay



I need to get
a photo of
us three because
we always
forget





RING
RING
RING

The person you are calling is
unavailable. Please leave a
message after—







Me and Nick
are dating.

...



Dating... who?



Each other. We're dating each other.



750

I thought... I thought you liked him but he's straight.



Yeah, same, but... it turns out he's bi and... now we're going out.



Actually... it's been going on for a few months. We've been going out since April.











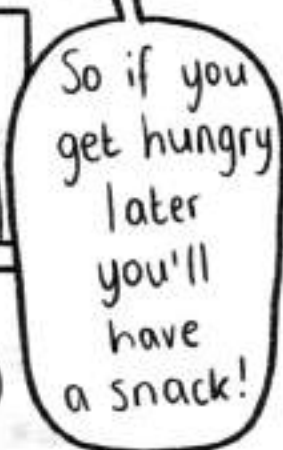


Paris - Day 4



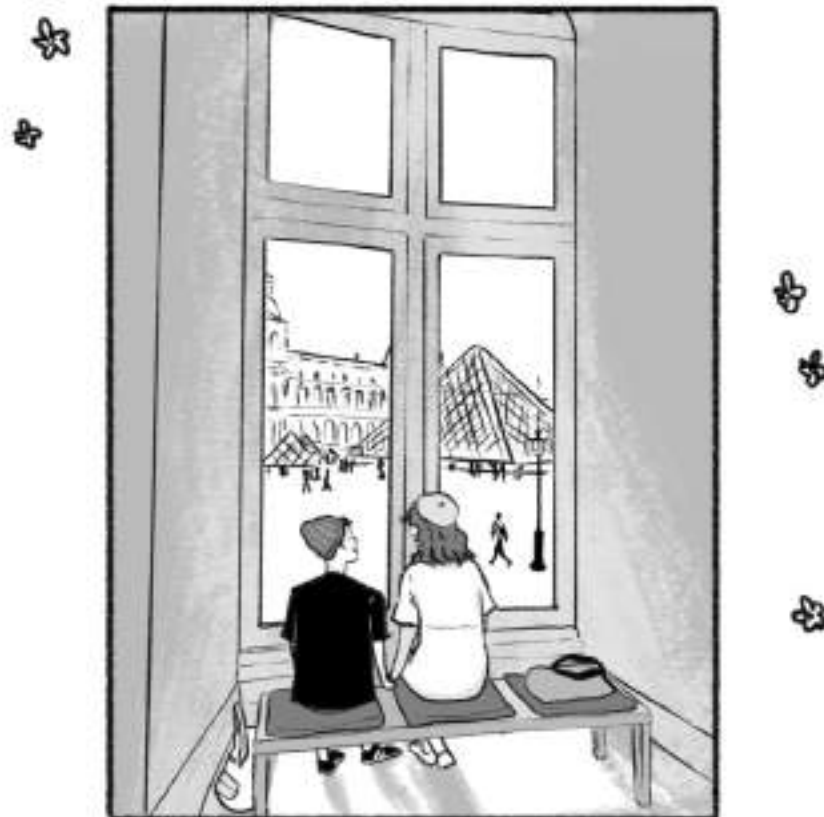
















This place
goes on
FOREVER

And it's
SO HOT
I'm dying

Where
even are
we?



I have
the map!



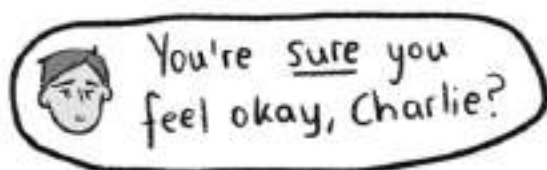












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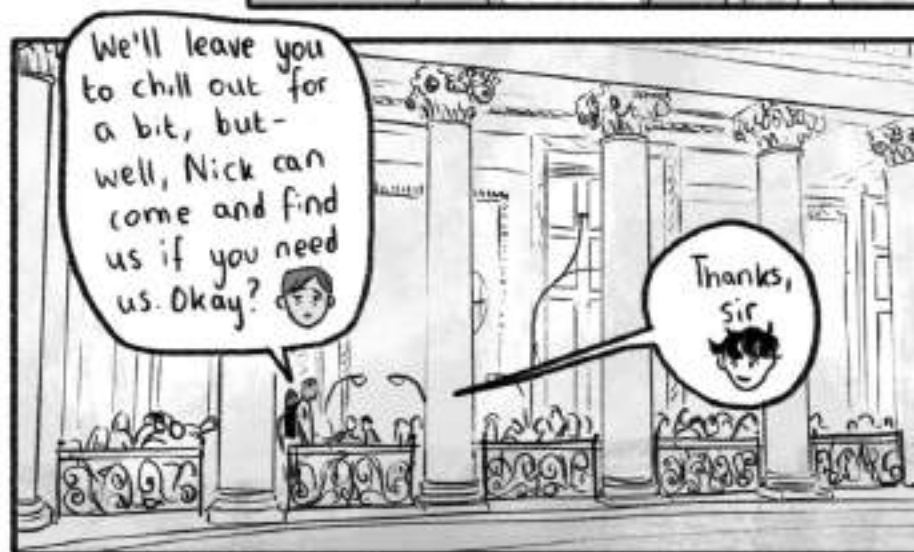


There you go, Mr Spring!

Get those in your belly!

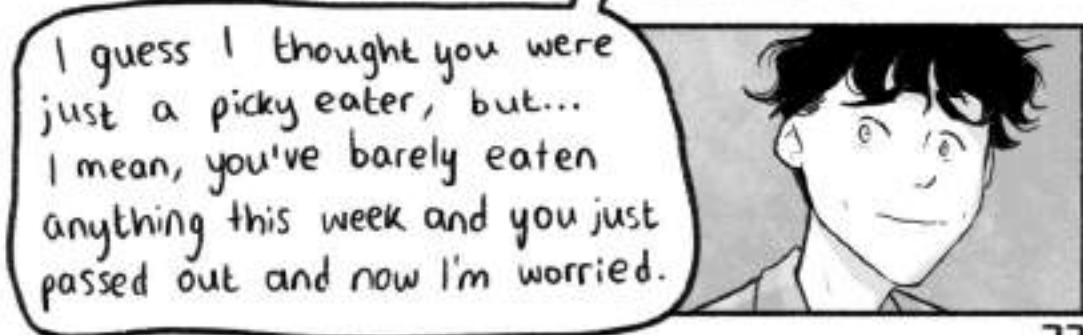


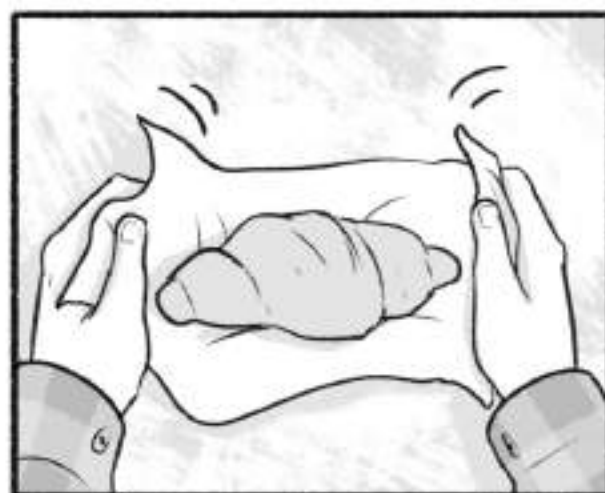
...Thank you



We'll leave you to chill out for a bit, but- well, Nick can come and find us if you need us. Okay?

Thanks, sir





I know
I don't
...
eat
like
normal
people









780

TOO LONG!!







Let's go!



Wow, this is so-



Ah - that's my phone!!

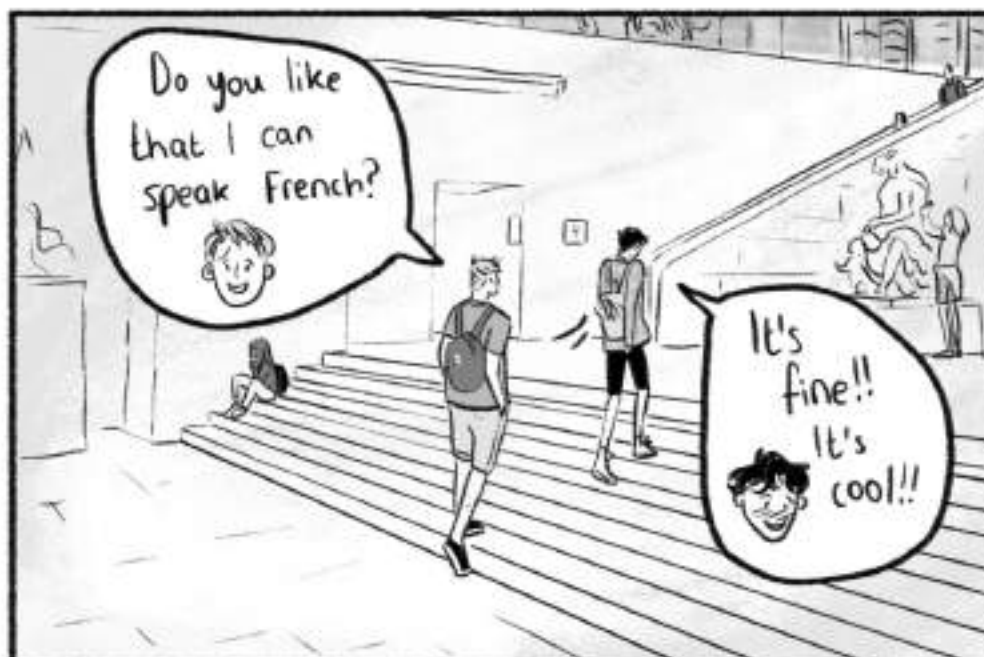


Oh!!







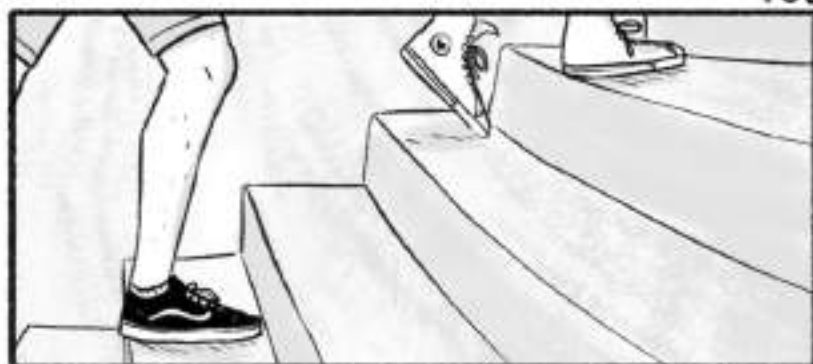






Anyway, what did your dad want? I can't believe I didn't know he was French!

Oh yeah! I wanted to try and meet up with him but he said he's too busy with work.





That sucks

Yeah. He's not
the most
reliable, but...

Look,
that's
him

He's still
my dad,
you know?
I wanted
to tell
him about
you. In
person.





This has been stressing you out... You should have told me about it!

Yeah, I... I didn't want to make you worry.



I guess we've both been keeping some stuff to ourselves...

Haha! Yeah...







I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you
I love you







I feel horrible about fucking up last year but I shouldn't pass that guilt onto you. I made a really stupid, idiotic mistake and you suffered really badly because of it.



I don't think I even understood how hard it must have been for you to come out to me.



So...



I will be a better friend and less of an idiot. I promise.



Okay
😊







Paris - Day 5







← Did not think of that →



HALF AN HOUR LATER



My skin's a bit lighter than yours but this'll probs be fine

You could mix it with some of mine!

Yeah, that might work!











chatter chatter chatter chatter chatter

805







Seems fairly obvious to me!



I'm pretty sure I did the exact same thing at that age.

Sneaking around like that with a boy.



Come on.

807



You never snuck off with a boy on a school trip when you were their age?





Paris - Day 6

Haaaappy Biiiiirthdaaaay ☑
♪ toooooo yooooovvv!!



I am literally so
embarrassed right
now

811







And it's Tara's birthday.
So I know you might
all want to have a
little... party
tonight in your
rooms.



A
party?



A
PARTY!!

Well, we're not
going to ban
that, but
please make
sure that
you're being
safe and
please keep
the noise
down, okay?

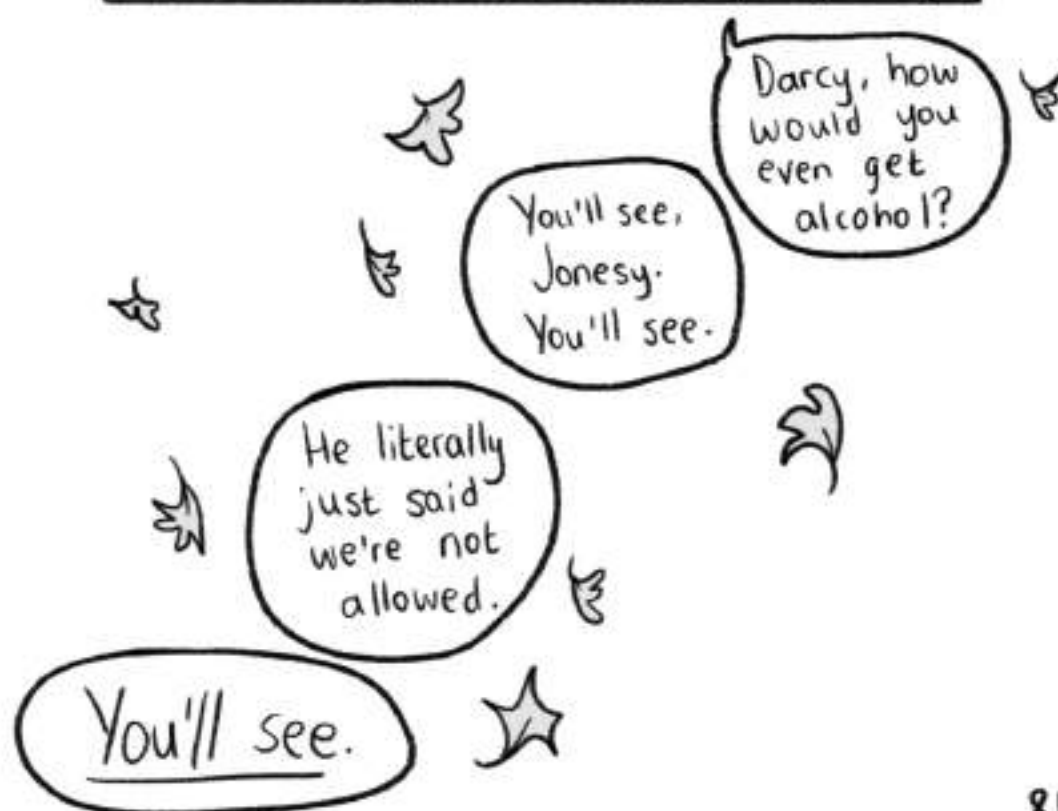


Yay!



You can
buy snacks
and drinks
while we're
out today,
but—











Tara Jones + 39 others



Tara Jones

Casual party in my room from 9pm!!
Room 317!! Everyone's welcome 😊
and you can wear PJs!



Darcy Olsson

PLEASE BRING SNACKS IF YOU HAVE
ANY. ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE PRINGLES

also I have vodka 🍷



Katie Lee

Yassss we'll be there!



Tom Jaeger

CAN'T WAIT



Aleena Bukhsh

omg darcy how did you get vodka



Darcy Olsson

i have my ways



Jared Lambe

YEEEEEE LET'S GET LIT

Charlie Spring

we'll be there!!!!!!



That night ...





You sure you don't mind
me borrowing this?

As long as you don't steal it
like the other three you've
"borrowed". I actually
quite like that
one.

I
didn't
STEAL
them!!



I- I just
forgot to
give them
back!















Teasing you is
so fun! :)

I actually
hate you.

Nah, you
like me.

I really
don't



KNOCK

317

**KNOCK
KNOCK**



THIS UPDATE MAY TRIGGER SOME PEOPLE. TO SEE A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIGGERING MATERIAL, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO THE UPDATE NOTES. THANKS!











Ahem.



Sorry to interrupt
your very obvious
flirting, BUT-











835





Maybe you have
to learn to like
it.

That's what my
mum says about
red wine.



Oh well. I don't
need to be drunk
right now.



Same.



A little while later...



837











You don't get
to ambush me
into forgiving
you in front
of everyone.

One "sorry"
doesn't
make up
for all
the things
you said.

So
Congrats
on your incredibly
difficult realisation
that gay people
actually do
have feelings



and have
a nice
life ♡







.. Touch





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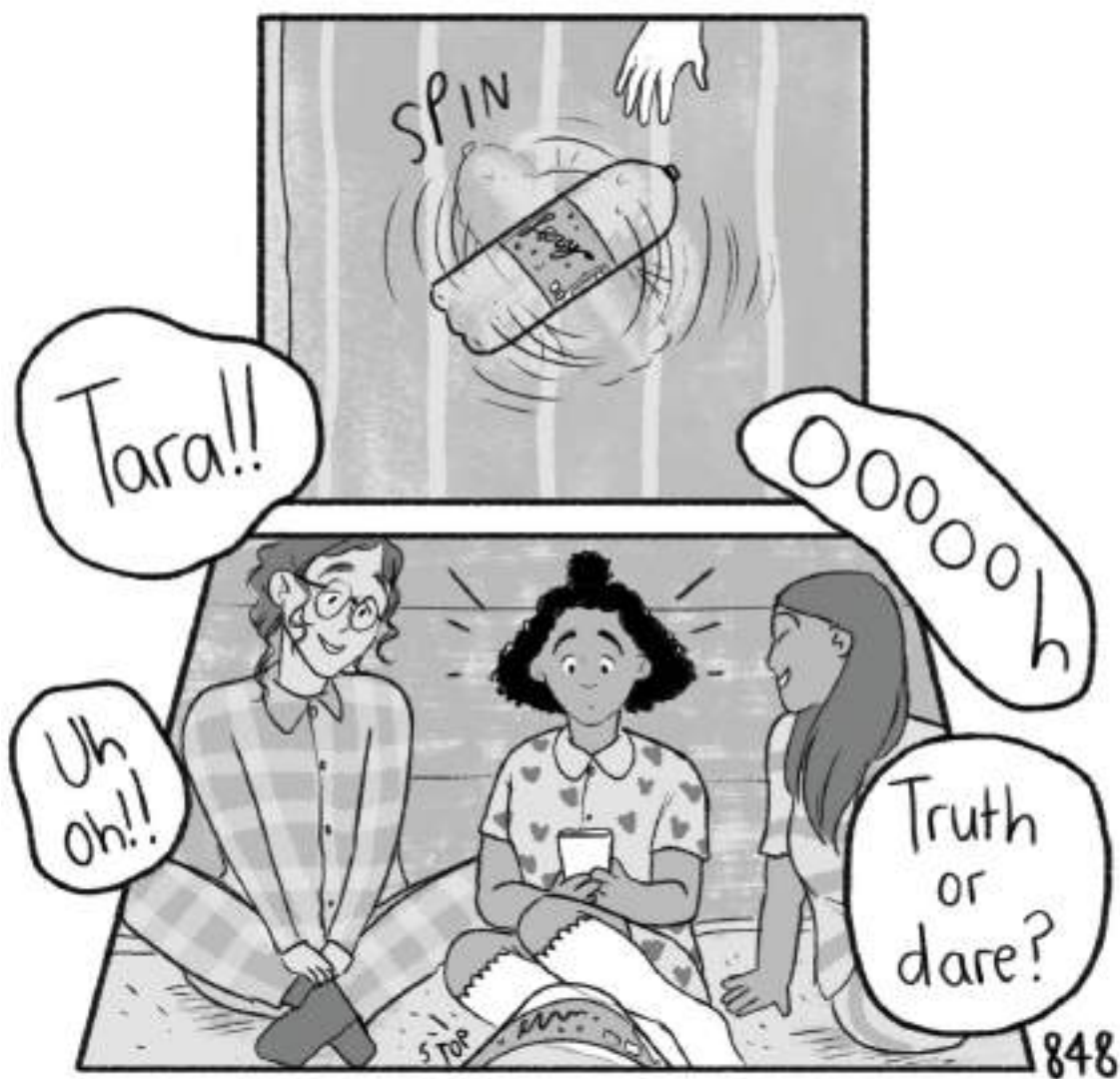


Ahem~♡



847









Tao!



Truth

Hmmm...



Have you kissed someone in this room?





Obviously dare.



I dare you...
to kiss
James.

...

What!?!

I'm up for it!!
Ha ha!!



You have
to do it!!
That's the
dare!



Go ooon! It's
just one
little kiss!



853





Oh!! Um-
okay, that's
fine, I-

I didn't
care
anyway
so...
ha
ha

Okay, but
you have
to do a
truth
instead



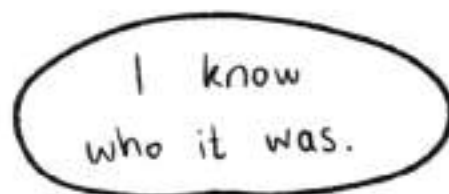
Fine!!



Who gave you the love bite?













Do you want us to keep it a secret?



We're okay
with being
out.

We haven't
been keeping it
that secret
anyway.

Ahem.

I hate to
interrupt this
very lovely
moment, but—









863

I WANT EVERYONE OUT EXCEPT TARA AND DARCY. EVERYONE ELSE GET BACK TO YOUR ROOMS NOW.











Do you think it'll get passed around?



Like, do you think everyone will know? When we're back at school in September?





I think...
I'm okay
with that.

Nervous, yeah,
but...
I'm
okay.



Are you
feeling okay
about it?



About us
being
out?

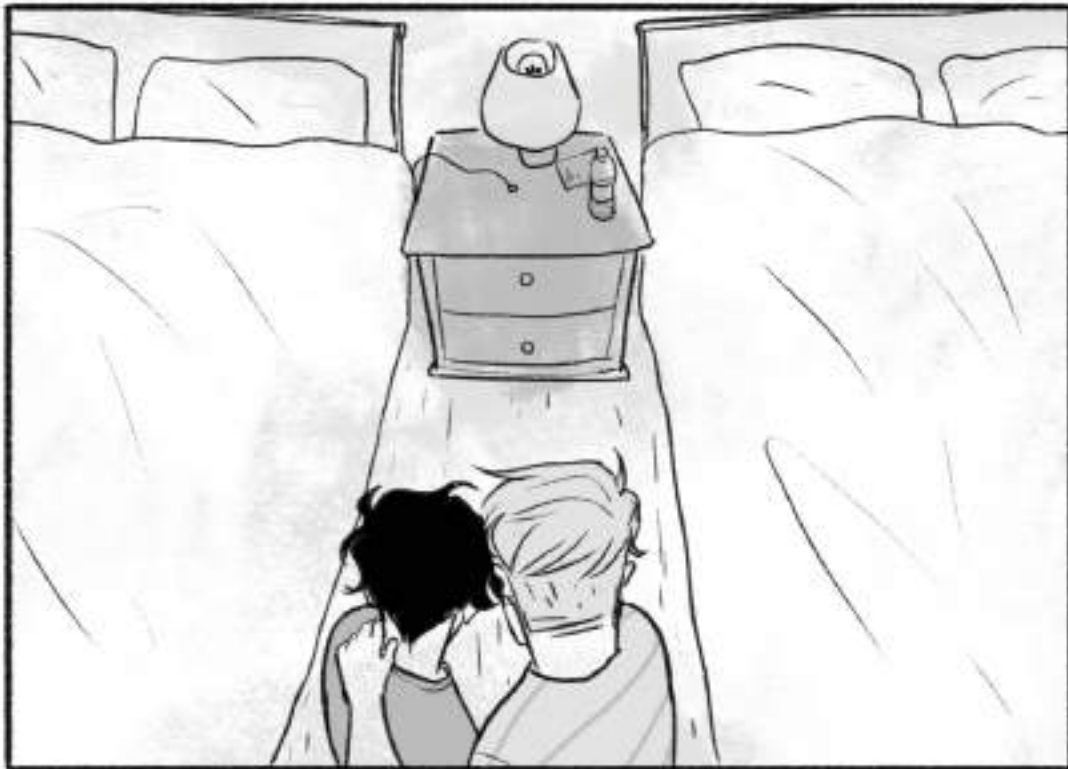
869



Um...
I... I was
scared.









I could sleep in this bed with you?



Since we wanted to on Monday, but... then Tao was being Tao, and... yeah, haha

















kiss



kiss



kiss



kiss













And I'd only want to if you wanted to as well.



If you didn't ever want to then I wouldn't either.



ARGH I'm interrupting our make out time by talking about deep stuff

No I started it!

I'm so embarrassing!!

I think we both are to be honest

Pfft







sniff
Am I gonna
get in trouble,
sir?



...
sigh

Well...

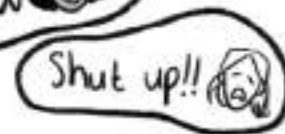


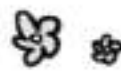
You can't get in trouble for
having food poisoning, can you?



Get a good
night's sleep,
girls.







giggle



giggle



Stop it!!
I can't stop
laughing when
you're laughing!!

My stomach
hurts!!





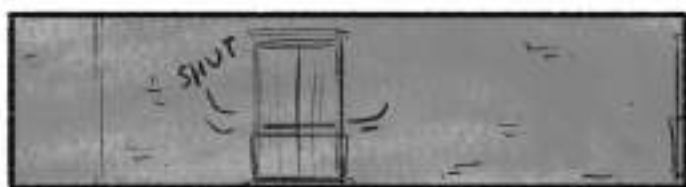












I wanna
stay up
all night

Same





Paris - Day 7

Come on.
Onto the bus.
We have a
train to catch.





903













